Surveillance to identify iodine deficient areas

494. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the surveillance was carried out to identify the specific areas of iodine deficiency in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons why iodised salt is made available all over the country irrespective of its dire requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per Surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, State Health Directorates and Health Institutions out of 324 districts surveyed covering all the States/Union Territories, 263 districts are endemic i.e. where the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency disorders is more than 10%. Thus no State/Union Territories is free from Iodine Deficient Disorder.

Banning of non-iodised salt

495. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that use of non-iodised salt has been banned nation-wise;

(b) if so, whether any exceptions are given to the States or regions where iodine deficiency was not found; and

(c) whether hilly and tribal areas were excluded from this ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) In the interest of public health, restrictions have been imposed nation wide on the sale of edible common salt for direct human consumption unless the same is iodised under the PFA Act 1954 and Rules 1955 with effect from 17th May 2006. Common salt may however be sold for iodization, iron fortification, animal use, preservation, manufacturing medicine and industrial use.

As per Surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, State Health Directorates and Health Instituions out of 324 districts surveyed covering all the States/ Union Territories, 263 districts were found to be endemic i.e. where the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency disorder is more than 10%. Thus no State/Union Territories is free from Iodine Deficient Disorder, therefore, no part of the country is excluded from the above mentioned restrictions.

Shortage of Nurses due to migration

496. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's public health system is facing a crunch of trained nurses as scores of US-based hospitals have recruited a large number of Indian nurses;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to arrest the trend; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There are 1312 General Nursing andd Midwifery, 580 B.Sc. (Nursing) and 77 M.Sc. (Nursing) Institutions functioning in the country with a capacity about 40,000 per year and as such there is no shortage of trained nurses.

Popularity of Indian System of Medicines

497. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian System of Medicine (ISM) is attracting a lot of interest in the developing and developed countries;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith details of exports of ISM medicines and foreign exchange earned during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(c) whether there have been reports of some ayurvedic medicines manufactured by reputed firms containing human parts and products; and